

timeframe. That is important to the two leaders. Hopefully, we can achieve that tomorrow. If we do, then I would take the appropriate parliamentary steps to remove from the appropriations bill these matters.

So I thank the two leaders and reiterate the essential nature of bringing this bill forward. I feel very strongly about it. And I thank my colleague from Alaska with whom I worked today. I am not suggesting—anyway, we worked it out, followed the rules, and that is it. I thank the leadership.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### NOTICES OF INTENT

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, in accordance with rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend paragraph 4 of rule XVI for the purpose of proposing to the bill, H.R. 2863, the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill, the following amendment: Amendment no. 1999.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, in accordance with rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing of my intention to move to suspend paragraph 4 rule XVI for the purpose of proposing to the bill, H.R. 2863, the Defense Appropriations bill, the following amendment: No. 2025.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

#### MORNING BUSINESS

##### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

###### ARMY SPECIALIST ALLEN NOLAN

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Army SP Allen Nolan, from Marietta, OH, who was severely injured in Balad, Iraq, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He died from his injuries on September 30, 2004, at the Brook Army Medical Center in Houston, Texas. He was 38 years old.

Throughout Allen's life, he touched countless people. His family and close friends describe his loyalty and devotion to his family, his community, his church, and his country. Allen's strong religious faith was central to him. As Pastor Ray Witmer III, of Faith Bible Church in Williamstown, OH, where Allen and his family were members, said this about Allen:

The phrase that keeps coming to mind—words that Allen actually had said many times—is that he is a father, husband, son, soldier, and foremost, a Christian.

Allen Nolan was all of those things—and more. Robin Nolan described her brother-in-law as a "strong family man who enjoyed hunting and fishing." She said that "he was always willing to help out. When my husband was ill last winter, he was such a big help. He was a very, very good brother and father."

Allen Nolan graduated from Warren High School and received an associate degree in business from Washington

County Technical College. Later, he attended The Ohio State University and Ohio Valley College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in organizational management. He eventually went on to work for Broughton Foods in Marietta and Century 21 Realty.

Allen loved his family more than anything else in the world. He and his devoted wife, Gail, were the proud parents of five children—Roman, Kennan, Euanna, Bobby, and Frankie. Allen was a terrific father—caring, committed, and supportive of his young family. He protected Gail and his children as a husband and father—and also as a soldier.

Allen loved his country and felt a duty to protect it and make it a better place for his family. He served in the Army Reserves for seven years as a member of the 660th Transportation Company based out of Zanesville, Ohio. As one of the more experienced members of his unit, Allen took it upon himself to mentor the younger soldiers.

Dan Johnson, a close friend in his unit, described Allen as a "completely selfless individual. He would drop anything to help someone. He talked about his family all the time. I feel very lucky that I had the chance to know him and to work with him." Johnson further emphasized, "What I remember most about Allen is that he always had a 'can do' attitude. I never heard him complain or gripe about anything. We got to be close friends."

SP Robert Lovell, who served with Allen since 1997, also cherished their friendship, saying the following:

Allen was always the first to volunteer. He was deeply committed to his religion. What I miss most about Allen is that he was always there if you needed help or counsel. Allen was one of my best friends and has been since we first met.

BG Michael W. Beasley, commanding general of the 88th Regional Readiness Command, RRC, said that "Allen was a wonderful soldier. He frequently volunteered for the most complex and difficult missions. He was also an excellent mentor and trainer of the younger soldiers." Other men in his company described how he would lead them in prayer before going out on a mission. They talked about how much comfort that gave them.

Not surprisingly, though just three months away from retiring from the Reserves when his unit was deployed to Iraq in February 2004, Allen did not hesitate to fulfill his duty. He and Gail both considered the war in Iraq an integral part of the war on terror. Allen believed he had a mission to carry out and was ready and willing to do whatever was necessary—whatever was needed.

Allen had been in Iraq 9 months, when he was scheduled to return home for 2 weeks on September 20, 2004. However, he was injured on September 18 when the fuel truck that he was driving north of Baghdad was struck by an improvised explosive device and came under a missile attack and a small

arms fire. Allen was first evacuated to the 31st combat support hospital in Baghdad and then to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. A burn team later transported him to Brook Army Medical Center in Texas, where he died on September 30, following a second surgery.

Thankfully, Allen was able to spend his last days and hours surrounded by loved ones. Gail and their oldest son, Roman, were able to be with him at the hospital. Gail's close friend, Karmen Lockhart, said that "we knew so many people praying for Allen, but God didn't answer our prayers the way we wanted. But, I believe he answered Allen's prayers, not to take other soldiers, but to take him. I believe he gave his life so others could be saved."

Pastor Witmer was also able to be with the Nolans at the Army hospital in Texas. Pastor Witmer said that "Allen was sure of his eternity." His unshakable faith is what allowed him to give so generously of himself and make that ultimate sacrifice.

Young children often have a way of putting even the most tragic of events into perspective for us. After learning of his father's death, Allen and Gail's son Kennan, who was nine years old at the time, said this about his father: "The Lord must have needed him more than I did." In those simple, selfless words, this little boy is saying so much. His father would be very proud.

Appropriately, Allen was remembered in a beautiful funeral service held at the Faith Bible Church, the center of his spiritual life. Nearly 500 people attended the service. Allen received five medals posthumously: The Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. His medals were presented to Gail at his funeral, which included full military honors.

When I think about the life of Army SP Allen Nolan, I am reminded of something tennis great, Arthur Ashe, once said about what it means to be a hero. He said that "true heroism is remarkably sober—very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost." That's Allen Nolan. He was a noble man willing to serve others—his family, his fellow soldiers, his country—at whatever cost. And for that, we will never forget him.

I know that Allen's family and friends will forever cherish the memory of their son, brother, husband, and father, whose love knew no bounds. They all remain in our thoughts and prayers.

###### ARMY CORPORAL KEVIN W. PRINCE

Mr. President, this afternoon I also wish to honor and to remember a fellow Ohioan and a brave soldier. Army CPL Kevin W. Prince, of Plain City, OH, was killed on April 23, 2005, when a homemade bomb detonated under his Humvee. Corporal Prince was on patrol in Iskandariyah, Iraq. At the time of his death, He was 22 years old.

Kevin was born on July 13, 1982, in Canton, OH, to loving parents, Ronald and Susan Prince. When he was 2 years old, his family moved to Plain City, where he grew up. As a youth, Kevin worked part time in his parent's restaurant, the "Main Street Bagel and Deli, and attended Alder High School, where he played soccer and ran cross country. Principal Phil Harris remembers Kevin as a decent young man, who was honest and caring. He was always standing up for the underdogs—the kids who were being picked on or bullied. He made sure they were okay—that they were protected.

Inside and outside of school, Kevin lived life to the fullest. He enjoyed reading, watching movies, running, and playing video games. Kevin also enjoyed playing soccer, something he had done since the age of 5. His grandfather tells a story about one of Kevin's earliest matches. Kevin had the ball and was running down the field—but in the wrong direction. Kevin's grandfather shouted at him to turn around, which he did, but only long enough to shout "Be quiet, Grampa!" He kept on running down the field—the wrong way. Evidently, Kevin had a bit of stubborn streak.

After graduating from high school, Kevin decided to join the military. He planned to attend college when his term of service ended. His father, a Navy veteran, tried his best to convince Kevin to become a fellow sailor, but Kevin refused. He wanted to be a soldier, and so, in 2001, he enlisted in the Army.

Kevin went through boot camp at Fort Benning, GA, where he finished in October 2002. By January 2003, he was sent to Fort Irwin, CA, where he joined the Army's 2nd Division, 11th Armored Cavalry, Echo Troop. At Fort Irwin, Kevin trained other soldiers in the extreme conditions of the Mojave Desert to prepare them for the heat and dust of Iraq's deserts.

On January 9, 2005, Kevin's unit was deployed to Iraq, where they patrolled the area south of Baghdad. Months after Kevin arrived in Iraq, he began April 23 like any other day. He called home and spoke to his parents. He chatted with his sister and brother over the Internet. Only a few hours later, a roadside bomb detonated under his vehicle. In that tragic moment, the Prince family lost their youngest son, and the United States lost a very courageous soldier.

CPL Kevin Prince was more than just a good soldier. He was a good citizen. He was a good friend. Chris Holehouse, a close friend of Kevin's, spoke of his honesty, selflessness, and integrity:

His handshake was his word. If he found \$2,000 in a wallet, he'd give it back. He was not like anybody else. He wasn't apathetic to what was going on. He wasn't lazy, and he wasn't selfish; he was dependable. He reminded me of those books about Camelot. He reminded me of one of those guys.

Just as he had in high school, Kevin fought bullying wherever he found it,

even at Fort Irwin. After Kevin's death, a friend from Fort Irwin wrote a brief memorial for the guy who looked out for him and became his friend:

My name is Specialist Nathan Stern. I met Kevin when I first arrived at Fort Irwin. Being a brand new [Private] mechanic, I naturally got a hard time from a lot of the infantry guys. Kevin didn't [give me a hard time]. He helped me out a lot. We became friends over time and hung out outside of work every now and then. Kevin was a rare person to find, and I will miss him.

Kevin joined the Army to help make the world a better place. And in so many ways, he did just that. Those who knew Kevin all say he hated bullies. In high school, he stood up for his schoolmates. In the Army, he stood up for all of us. He fought for the blessings we sometimes take for granted and the principles and ideals on which our Nation was founded. He fought for it all, and he gave us his all.

Today, we honor Kevin Prince. We will remember him always.

My wife, Fran, and I continue to keep Kevin's many friends and family—especially his parents, Ronald and Susan; his sister Kelly; and his brother Jason—in our thoughts and in our prayers.

#### ARMY 1LT AARON SEESAN

Mr. President, I also wish to honor a fellow Ohioan and brave soldier. Army First Lieutenant Aaron Seesan of Massillon, OH, was gravely injured on May 21, 2005, when his vehicle struck a roadside bomb near Mosul, Iraq. Having survived the immediate blast, he was transported to a hospital in Germany, where he passed away a short time later. Aaron was 24 years old.

Aaron's dedication and sacrifice knew no bounds. As he lay mortally wounded in the moments following the explosion, he thought not of himself, but of his fellow soldiers around him. Instead of calling out for help, he ordered his troops to tend to other injured soldiers. Those who witnessed First Lieutenant Seesan's incredible act of bravery remember his words: "Take charge Sergeant Arnold, and take care of the others." This last act of selflessness defined Aaron's character, his heroism, his courage.

Aaron attended Massillon Washington High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society, earned several scholarships, and became a delegate to Buckeye Boys State. He played on the offensive line for the Tigers football team, and threw the shot put in track. He also participated in the drama program, Academic Challenge, and the speech team. Aaron was, indeed, a very accomplished young man.

After high school, he enrolled in the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. At the Academy, Aaron was a member of the rifle team and served on the school's honor board, which he chaired his senior year. In 2003, the day he graduated with a degree in marine systems engineering, Aaron was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Once in the Army, Aaron volunteered to go to Iraq. He didn't have to go. He wanted to go. He joined the 73rd Engineering Company, 1st Brigade, 24th Regiment—a unit that had sustained numerous casualties. Aaron explained to his father that most other soldiers of his rank have families, and that he—as a single man—should go in their place. Aaron went to Iraq so that someone he would never meet could stay home with his or her family. That is just how Aaron saw the world. To him, this was simply the right thing to do.

The other members of the 73rd sometimes joked about Aaron's maritime background. They tell a story about how during live fire exercises, Aaron once yelled "man overboard," instead of "man down" after a mock casualty fell. Though they liked to joke and kid around, his fellow soldiers never questioned Aaron's resolve or his dedication to his service.

Not surprisingly, while in Iraq, Aaron took on one of the riskiest jobs. As a combat engineer, or sapper, he patrolled the most dangerous roads in and around Mosul. While most soldiers did their best to avoid roadside bombs, Aaron Seesan looked for them. He was part of a Stryker brigade that searched for improvised explosive devices along roadways. At a memorial service, LTC Eric Kurilla, commanding officer of the 24th regiment, spoke of the inherent risks involved with what Aaron was doing:

A Stryker IED Sweep, by its very name, implies great danger and risk. You are traveling the most heavily mined and bombed roads in Iraq, not trying to avoid the mines and bombs, but actually trying to find them. Why? So that others can travel safely without fear of attack.

Without ever giving it a second thought, Aaron went out and did his job to protect others. As SGT John Pavlick, also of the 73rd, said, "[Aaron] fully knew he was walking into a mess. That says a lot about him." Indeed, it does.

On May 22, 2005, our country lost a brave soldier and Aaron's family lost a loving son and brother. Just hours before he went on his last late night explosives sweep, Aaron waited in line until nearly midnight to make a phone call home to his family. One last time, Aaron teased his two sisters and spoke with his parents. His last words to his mother were simply, "I love you."

Upon his death, Aaron posthumously received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Army Commendation Medal. His father, Tom, knows that Aaron died fulfilling a dream. He knows that Aaron wanted more than anything to protect his community and country as a soldier. As he said, "[Aaron] always was interested in the military from a small boy. This was always something that he wanted to do. He died doing something he wanted to do."

Tom Heitger, Aaron's good friend since kindergarten, echoed that sentiment, saying this about Aaron's sacrifice:

The military was all he ever wanted; it was his dream. He was a very hard working man. It has been both an honor and a privilege to call this man my friend, and I'm very proud of him. He made the ultimate sacrifice.

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to share the heartfelt words of one of Aaron's fellow soldiers, PVT BriAnne Ackerson. In an email message posted to an Internet tribute in Aaron's honor, she wrote the following to Aaron's family:

Aaron Seesan was an amazing officer. I knew him well. As I served near him in Iraq and became a good friend of his in Kuwait, I realized the potential he had to become such a wonderful officer. He cared so much for so many. He was always asking questions, always wanting to know more. He always smiled and did his job to the tee. Aaron will be missed terribly by so many. . . . I hope this letter brings you blessings. I really miss your son. . . . He meant a lot to me. God Bless all of you.

Aaron Seesan joined the Army to protect his country. He volunteered to go to Iraq to protect families he never met. And, he de-mined roads in Iraq to protect the men and women serving alongside him. He never stopped giving, even during the last moments of his life.

Our Nation has lost a truly courageous and selfless young man. May his memory endure and inspire greatness in others.

My wife Fran and I continue to keep Kevin's mom and dad and his sisters and brother in our thoughts and in our prayers.

ARMY SSG RICHARD MORGAN, JR.

Mr. President, I also wish to pay tribute to a fellow Ohioan and dedicated soldier who lost his life while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I honor and remember the life of Army SSG Richard Morgan, Jr.

When I think about the dedication of all our men and women in uniform, I am reminded of something President Ronald Reagan once said about our obligation to protect freedom. He said this:

For with the privilege of living in . . . America . . . there is a destiny and a duty, a call to preserve and hold in sacred trust mankind's age-old aspirations of peace and freedom and a better life for generations to come.

Richard Morgan, Jr., answered the call to preserve freedom. He fought for peace. And, he made the world a better place for future generations.

Rik—as Richard was known to family and friends—was born in Dayton, OH, on December 20, 1965. He attended St. Clairsville High School, where he was one of the original members of the St. Clairsville Singers and played on the Red Devil football team. After graduation in 1984, Rik briefly worked at Conway Central Express in Uhrichsville, OH, before joining the Army, something his friends say he always wanted to do.

Rik loved Army life. He was a dedicated and dependable soldier. He participated in Operation Just Cause in Panama from 1989 to 1990, and served in

the Middle East during Operation Desert Storm. While he was certainly proud to serve and to protect and defend freedom, Rik would undoubtedly say that one of the best things that came about from his time in the Army wasn't so much about his service, but about meeting the love of his life, Diana.

Diana and Rik met while he was serving in Germany almost 20 years ago. They fell deeply in love. Friends say they were meant for each other. Rik and Diana eventually married and had two wonderful children, Richard and Kimberly, whom they raised in Maynard, OH.

Rik and his family were living in Maynard when the war in Iraq began. Having spent a few years out of the full time service as a retired Reservist, he did not want to sit on the sidelines. Rik re-enlisted in the Army, and with the same excitement he had when he first enlisted so many years before.

Rik's sister, Bonita Girty, said this about Rik's re-enlistment:

He just loved what he did. He wanted to go back. . . . I don't think anyone could stop him from going. . . . He just liked fighting for his country.

Rik's friends agreed. They said he "loved his country and wanted nothing more than to serve and protect it." He was assigned to the 660th Transportation Company of the U.S. Army Reserves, based in Cadiz, OH. He started serving in Iraq in December 2003. Though thousands of miles separated him from his beloved family, Rik kept several Internet connections open to stay in touch. His sister Bonita said that her brother never indicated feelings of nervousness and made sure never to discuss the secret nature of his missions. Rik believed in the war and was devoted to his mission.

Rik and his family had the opportunity to spend time together for 2 weeks in August 2004, when he was on leave. It was time they all cherished. Rik and his wife celebrated their 16th wedding anniversary, as well as Diana's birthday before he went back to Iraq. "He was happy to be home," his sister recalled. "He was happy to be here with his family."

Tragically, that was the last time Rik would see them. On October 5, 2004, Rik was killed when his military vehicle hit a landmine in Latfiyah, Iraq. He was 38 years of age at the time of his death.

Rik Morgan forever will be remembered as a loving father, devoted husband, attentive son, and caring brother. He touched countless lives.

Rik was given full military honors at the service held in his honor and the Purple Heart and Bronze Star were presented to his family. Hundreds gathered to pay their respects to Rik, including members of the St. Clairsville football team and Rik's coach from so many years ago, Mickey Blatnik.

I had the privilege of meeting several members of Rik's family, and I want to thank them for sharing their memories

with me. It was easy to see how proud they are of Rik and how supportive they are of each other. As Rik's sister Bonita said, "He's a hero. He was proud to fight for his country."

In closing, I would like to share an email message that was posted on an Internet tribute to Rik. It is a simple message from Mrs. Arthur's 4th Grade Class in Nelsonville, OH. It reads as follows:

My class and I want to thank you Richard for helping to keep us all safe. Please know that you will not be forgotten.

Indeed, Army SSG Richard Morgan will not be forgotten, for he answered the call President Reagan talked about to preserve peace and freedom. As that email message attests, he was, in fact, making "a better life for generations to come."

My wife Fran and I continue to keep Richard's family and friends in our thoughts and in our prayers.

ARMY SGT KURT SCHAMBERG

Mr. President, this afternoon I also wish to honor a fellow Ohioan and brave soldier, Army Sergeant Kurt Schamberg, from Orwell. SGT Schamberg died in Baghdad on May 19, 2005, when a roadside bomb detonated alongside his Humvee. He was 26 years of age at the time.

Kurt Schamberg held nothing back from his service to our country. At the time of his death, Kurt was almost done with his second tour of duty in Iraq. He already had been injured by shrapnel from another roadside bombing, but, as soon as he could leave the hospital, Kurt was back on patrol with his unit. Over and over, he gave of himself to protect others. Sergeant Schamberg was the embodiment of endurance and dedication, demonstrating time and time again that he was a model U.S. soldier.

Kurt was born on July 16, 1978, in Warren, OH. He grew up in Orwell, where he graduated from Grand Valley High School in 1997. Kurt was an energetic and creative young man. He enjoyed sports—especially watching the Pittsburgh Steelers—discussing politics, painting, and amateur filmmaking. Though he loved to talk about politics and current events, when the need presented itself, Kurt did more than just "talk" about the issues of the day with his friends. He acted. He went out into the world to make a difference. After the attacks of 9/11, Kurt Schamberg decided to enlist in the Army and defend our country from the front lines.

Kurt completed his training at Fort Benning, GA, and was then assigned to the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, NY, where he served as an automatic rifleman. His unit fought in the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom before returning home in March 2004. They again deployed again to Iraq in January 2005.

Kurt Schamberg was a man of great conviction, who fought for what he believed in, for what he felt was just and what he felt was right. Kurt joined the

war on terrorism and fought to bring freedom to the Iraqi people because he wanted to make the world a stronger, safer, better place for all of us. According to Kurt's mother, Pamela Lindsay:

[Kurt] among all my children was the peace lover. He was always finding a solution to a conflict. He would always fight the good fight, through talking and joking. If we could fight wars without loss of life and limb . . . Kurt would have lived. But . . . he knew that was not possible at this time.

Sergeant Schamberg loved his family. And, he loved the U.S. Army. He helped a new generation of soldiers learn how to protect themselves and protect our country. In an email message posted on an Internet tribute following Kurt's death, SPC Richard Ellsworth, who was stationed at Fort Campbell, KY, at the time, wrote the following:

[Kurt], I wanted to tell you that your job as an NCO in the Army is not over yet. You still have to take care of your troops! I will be heading to Iraq for the second time very shortly and I will need an outstanding NCO to look up to. I couldn't think of a better soldier than you. You will be missed, but never forgotten. Remember the soldiers' creed and the warrior ethos—and lead your soldiers to victory.

Kurt Schamberg was an accomplished and well-respected soldier. He was also an energetic, loving, good-humored young man, who endeared himself to all. Kurt's cousin Katie Schamberg remembers this about him: "He was talented. He was funny. He was just everything. He loved life and was proud of what he was doing. . . ."

Kurt lived life to its fullest, whether he was fighting in a war or watching his beloved Steelers play football or creating his artwork or having a lively debate about politics. Everything he did, he did it with passion and zeal and with a love for life.

I would like to close my remarks with something that Kurt's friend Tiffany from Cleveland wrote in his honor:

Kurt was a wonderful, charismatic and brave individual. He had the remarkable talent of making people laugh. I will always remember him for this. I am immensely saddened by the loss, as is everyone who was privileged enough to know him in this life. Kurt was loved by many and [was] a true friend. My sympathy goes out to Lance and Kurt's family. Farewell Kurt. You will surely be missed.

My wife Fran and I continue to keep Kurt's family in our thoughts and prayers.

#### TERRORIST ATTACKS IN INDONESIA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to condemn the terrorist attacks in Bali this past weekend that murdered over 20 people and injured scores of others. I ask my colleagues to keep the innocent victims of the attacks—and their families and friends—in our thoughts and prayers.

The indiscriminate murder of men, women, and children in Bali by suicide

bombers underscores the viciousness of ideological extremists. Young men and women wooed to the dark side of religious fanaticism should not be fooled that paradise follows their suicide. At the end of the day, there is only death and destruction.

During these turbulent times, the people of Indonesia should know that they do not stand alone. As we share common principles of freedom and human rights, the world's democracies stand with you. I encourage President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to let America and other nations know how best we can help in the aftermath of the attacks—and what assistance we can provide to counter terrorism in Indonesia. In the war against terrorism, your struggle is our struggle.

I close by saying that like the Bali bombings in October 2002, the ripple from this weekend's attacks are felt on the shores of all free nations. Indonesia does not stand alone.

#### THE LIFE OF PAMELA WHITE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last summer, I came to the Senate floor to say a few words about the untimely death of a great wilderness advocate and friend named Sally Kabisch. I spoke then of how one person can and does make a difference.

It is with a heavy heart that I return today to honor another great Nevadan who died too young and in tragic fashion.

Pam White hailed from Wyoming, she spent time in California, but settled in Ely—in eastern Nevada—and became a great Nevadan. Just last Thursday, Pam joined me and Senator ENSIGN for breakfast here in the Capitol. She had traveled to advocate for wilderness in White Pine County, the place she called home.

Pam's enthusiasm and conviction were infectious. She worked doggedly to build support for wilderness in rural Nevada. She served on local committees and advisory groups because she cared about the management and protection of our public lands. She deserves credit for depoliticizing the wilderness debate in eastern Nevada. She also deserves credit for supporting economic development in her adopted home town of Ely.

What I also appreciated about Pam was that she knew the importance of adoption. She adopted Nevada as her State, Ely as her home, and a young boy named Connor as her son.

Connor White has been dealt some tough cards in his life. His birth parents had serious drug problems and he ended up in foster care. Pam White became his advocate, his protector, and his mother. It takes a special person to care for a special needs child. Pam was a special person who cared. It takes an angel to adopt a special needs child.

The day after I saw Pam last week, she died in a single car crash between Ely and Elko. Pam was and is an angel. As Pam's parents, friends, family, and

community rally to remember her life, Connor's future will be their focus. Pam would have wanted it to be so because she knew that affecting the lives of children is the best difference we can make.

#### TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER KEVIN S. BRENNAN, USN

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to an outstanding Naval Officer, Commander Kevin Brennan, who has served so admirably and faithfully as a liaison to our Appropriations Committee on Defense. I want to recognize his superb service to our Nation and the Navy as he leaves our Nation's Capital to take command of an operational aviation squadron.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Defense Appropriations subcommittee, I want to take this opportunity to thank him for his dedicated and faithful service in pursuing the best for our men and women of the Navy.

As the Navy's primary appropriations matters liaison for aviation and weapons matters, Kevin has been an invaluable asset for the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations, as well as a wealth of knowledge for my personal staff over the past 3½ years.

In addition to providing timely and accurate information on budget matters and emerging war fighting requirements, CDR Brennan has personally escorted my staff and the subcommittee professional staff on numerous trips to review military operations and confirm the health and welfare of our troops, on the front lines as well as when they return home from action. He provided keen insight on matters of national security and naval aviation's current readiness status, and the direct relationship between the two. His perspective on the needs of the Nation with respect to our sea service has provided me with the clarity and detail I needed to make important decisions regarding appropriations for the Department of Defense in pursuing the Nation's global war on terrorism.

In addition to the respect for the work Commander Brennan did in representing the Navy, I would like to thank him for his congenial demeanor and great sense of humor that he shared with all of us. It is his same sense of purpose and professionalism that I am confident will enable him to be a tremendous role model for those who serve under his command.

It is my honor to recognize Commander Brennan for his distinguished service to our Nation. My wife Lynda and I have the highest respect for those who serve in uniform, and I appreciate and honor all the men and women who have served in the defense of freedom. Recalling our national anthem, to our veterans and Armed Forces, I say, we would not be "the land of the free" if we were not also "the home of the brave."